Alleged irregularities in the formation of the Nagandur Village Panchayat.

11-45 a.m. * 1322 *Q.*—Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a petition was received by the Registrar-General of Panchayats in November 1928 from one Aiyathorai signed by the Adi-Dravidas and Christians of the village of Nagandur pointing out the irregular procedure in the formation of the Nagandur Village Panchayat;

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken thereon; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the majority of the residents of this village are Adi-Dravidas and Christians and that they have no representatives in this village panchayat?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The petition was sent by the Registrar-General to the Honorary Organizer, Sathambadi, for report. The report has not yet been received.

(*c*) The majority of the residents of the village are Adi-Dravidas and they are not represented on the village panchayat. There was nothing to prevent their assembling at the election and so securing seats for members of their community.

Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"With reference to clause (*b*), when the report is received, will it be made available to this House?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Yes, Sir."

Excise

Proposed opening of a new shop in Devarkoil desam.

*1323 *Q.*—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that at the meeting of the Excise Advisory Committee, Calicut, held on the 30th November 1928, the Excise Inspector proposed to open a new shop in Devarkoil desam, Kayakodi amsam, Kurumbranad taluk;

(*b*) whether the proposal was opposed by the representatives of the public on the Committee; and

(*c*) whether there were equal number of votes for and against the proposal and whether the Chairman, who happened to be the Revenue Divisional Officer, gave his casting vote in favour of the proposal?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON:—"Will the hon. the Minister for Excise be good enough to modify the constitution and functions of the Excise Advisory Committee to give a more effective control for the representatives of the people for protecting the interests of the temperance cause."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"From this question on the agenda, Sir, it does not appear that any necessity has arisen. If the hon. Member desires to examine the question of greater powers I will consider."